

How are the Zapatista co-ops organized?

The women's cooperatives are concrete manifestations of women's rights in Zapatista territory. As indigenous women, they struggle against triple oppression: racism, capitalism, and sexism. Through artisans' co-ops, Zapatista women assert their rights to leave the home, make their own decisions, and prove themselves as breadwinners and businesswomen.

In keeping with the Zapatistas' belief that organizing should come from below and not be mandated from above, community collectives decide their relationship to the co-ops. Some communally buy materials and divide profits. Others give money to the individual whose products have sold. They take turns working at the stores, leaving their families for up to 15 days at a time.

The cooperatives hope to expand their markets so they can organize more women.

What is Rebel Imports?

Rebel Imports aims to build sustainable fair markets for artisans and farmers, especially those in conflict zones or with connections to social movements. Zapatista women told us that more than charity, they want dignity and fair prices for their artesanías... so Rebel Imports was born. To view our online catalogue, please visit rebelimports.com



Rebel Imports

Online fair trade catalogue featuring Palestinian olive oil, Zapatista coffee and women's handicrafts, stickers, union t-shirts, and more!

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Rebel Imports

Supporting communities
and movements
through solidarity, not
charity.



About the cooperatives...



Xulum Chon

Xulum Chon is a tsotsil women's cooperative in Oriente, Chiapas. It was founded in 2000 and represents 55 members from 8 communities in the municipalities of San Juan de la Libertad and San Andres. The women produce woven, embroidered coffee bags, handbags, shirts and blouses, baby clothes, scarves, and shawls.

Nichim Rosa

Nichim Rosa (Rose Flower in the Mayan language Tsotsil) was founded in 2002. Its 40 members are from the municipalities of Carranza and Amatenango del Valle. The women receive higher prices through the cooperative, but their sale volume is relatively low, so they continue to sell to tourists and middlemen at unfair prices to make ends meet.

Nichim Rosa sells embroidered satin bags, shirts and blouses, skirts, and dresses.



Las Mujeres por la Dignidad



Las Mujeres por la Dignidad (Women for Dignity) started in 1997. It includes 600 members from 40 communities in the municipalities of San Andres, San Juan Chamula, Chenalhó, and Simojovel. They produce handbags, dolls, blouses, sweaters, keychains, embroidered patches, knitted caps, shawls, belts, and Zapatista doll necklaces and earrings. Las Mujeres also sells amber jewelry made by Zapatista men.